

20 April 69

Dear Hal,

Thanks for your note of the 1st--yes, I'd like very much to borrow a copy of COUP when you have it. I'll of course take care of the cost of mailing.

Page proofs for Steppen. 3 now corrected and returned to London, should be completed and back here (providing no further labor troubles at the docks) in early June. Now have more time to spend on research in an area that might surprise you: U.S. Diplomatic History. Specifically, origins of the Baghdad Pact. The subject (diplomatic history) an early passion of mine, not pursued since undergraduate days.

A couple of clips enclosed. I did not hear Ball speak because I had no idea he was to be here. But curious thing is that, according to this news clip, he's originally from here--a resident of Council Bluffs at one time & a grad of Creighton, here in Omaha. As I've said to you before, the extraordinary number of persons relating in some way or other to the assassination who have some sort of ties with this geographical area.... It's at least strange.

This "review" of AMERICA BURNS is inane, but thought you'd like to have it if you hadn't already seen it. I may query Blackwell's--they might be able to find me a copy of the English edition (or I might try the publisher, in Vaduz). So who is James Hepburn?

More later--

Phil